in India. In December 1996, the Central India Coal Company Ltd. informed the Ministry of Coal that Ispat Urja Ltd. is a company registered in Mauritius. The Show Cause notice pointed out that this action of M/s. Central India Coal Company Ltd. was in violation of the notification and consequently, the show cause notice was issued. In reply thereto M/s. Ispat Urja Ltd. pointed out that there would not be any violation of the notification and consequently there would be no cause of action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) After careful examination, the Government issued a revised notification on 11-9-98, permitting M/s. IUL to be a company registered in Mauritius. Consequently, action on the show cause notice abated.

Decision to close down certain mines of ECL

312. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down 64 mines in six identified areas of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL).

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) if not, the stand of Government nominee in the ECL Board meeting held on 22nd October, 1998?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) ECL Board in which the Government of India is represented through its nominee Director has taken a decision to close 64 mines in six areas of ECL.

Appointment of International Mining Consultants in ECL

313. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI is in the process of appointing international mining Consultants to explore technical improvements to enhance productivity in ECL mines with difficult working conditions, categorised as Group 4 in its study report on ECL; and

(b) if so, the status of the same?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. ICICI has been commissioned by Coal India Limited (CIL) to conduct this study. ICICI has in turn appointed M/s. Montan Consultancy, GMBH, Germany for the study.

(b) M/s. Montan Consultancy commenced the study and it is likely to be completed by the end of December, 1998.

Present status of ECL

314. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) still stands referred to BIFR under the SICA 1985;

(b) if so, the operating agency appointed by BIFR for revival of ECL; and

(c) if not, present status *vis-a-vis* BIFR.

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) ECL made a reference to the BIFR under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision)

Act, 1985. Thereafter, the Government sanctioned a restructuring package to CIL which in turn restrutured the capital of ECL by way of increasing its share capital by Rs. 1179.45 crores. As a consequence the company's networth became positive and thereafter on 1.6.1998 the BIFR ordered that the company was no longer a sick company under the provisions of the Act. However, continued losses of ECL would once again render the networth of the company negative and it would have to be referred to BIFR once again.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) of the Question.

कोयला खानों का आधुनिकीकरण

315. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान सार्वजनिक/संयुक्त क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत कोयाल खानों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए धनराशि नियत की गई है;

(ख) इस प्रयोजनार्थ वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई और वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए कितनी धनराशि आवंटित किए जाने की संभावना है;

(ग) क्या इन खानों के आधुनिकीकरण हेतु कोई समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है; और

(घ) इससे कुल क्या लाभ होने की संभावना है?

कोयला मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) से (घ) आधुनिकीकरण एक सतत प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ विद्यमान खानों का पुनर्गठन, आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी को अपनाया जाना और उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए नयी खानों को खोला जाना शामिल है। उक्त तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए विशेष रूप से कोयला खानों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए धनराशि निर्धारित नहीं की गई है। आधुनिकीकरण, यंत्रीकरण, बढ़ी हुई क्षमता उपयोगिता, खानों के पुनर्गठन आदि जैसे उठाए गए कदमों के परिणामस्वरूप 1997-98 में 296.00 मिलियन टन के उत्पादन को 2001-02 तक 370.60 मिलियन टन तक बढ़ाए जाने के लक्ष्य रखा गया है। कोयला सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रमों के योजना परिव्यय में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ आधुनिकीकरण का भी ध्यान रखा जाता है। अतः नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना हेतु कोल इंडिया लि० और सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज़ कंपनी लि० के योनजा परिव्यय, 1997-98 के संशोधित अनुमान, 1996—99 के बजट का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

(करोड़ रु० में)

कंपनी का नाम	नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना	1997-98 संशोधित अनुमान	1998-99 बजट अनुमान
कोल इंडिया लि० (को० इं० लि०)	13100.00	1779.55	2517.00
सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज़ कंपनी लि० (सिं० को० कं० लि०)	2689.00	250.17	381.57

Dumping of Chinese Coke

316. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that more than 2.5 lakh workers are engaged in coking coal mines;

(b) whether government are also aware of the fact that the dumping of Chinese Coke in the Country has been affecting severely the Indian coking coal and coke industry;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that if the present situtation continues, our coking our industry will be in peril; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) According to the information received from Coal India Limited, about 1.6 lakh workers are engaged in coking coal mines.